

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1118

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonta

February 27, 2015

An act to add Section 13515.56 to the Penal Code, relating to public safety and law enforcement.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1118, as amended, Bonta. ~~Public safety and law enforcement.~~
Police officer standards and training: procedural justice.

Existing law establishes the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, to adopt rules establishing minimum standards relating to physical, mental, and moral fitness that govern the recruitment of specified peace officers. Existing law requires the commission to establish a certification program for those officers.

This bill would require every city police officer or deputy sheriff at a supervisory level or below who is assigned field or investigative duties to complete a procedural justice training course certified by the commission within 18 months after the commission determines that the training curriculum is sufficient. The bill would require the training to address specified objectives and core principles, and would require the commission to periodically update the training course and establish retraining schedule to incorporate updated course content.

~~Existing law grants specified powers and duties to peace officers and law enforcement officers.~~

~~This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation pertaining to public safety and law enforcement.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 13515.56 is added to the Penal Code, to
2 read:
3 13515.56. (a) *The Legislature finds and declares the following:*
4 (1) *Police training that addresses culture, diversity, mental*
5 *illness, youth development, and emphasizes mediation skills,*
6 *improves how police relate to the communities that they serve and*
7 *help minimize the use of force. The Legislature acknowledges that*
8 *procedural justice training has emerged as a best practice for*
9 *police departments to build trust with community members and*
10 *reduce confrontation. Research suggests that when citizens see*
11 *the police as more objective, they are more likely to comply with*
12 *police directives.*
13 (2) *Procedural justice emphasizes treating community residents*
14 *with respect, and has gained traction as an evidence-based and*
15 *cost-effective way to reduce crime. As a result, several law*
16 *enforcement agencies throughout the country have implemented*
17 *procedural justice training into their academies along with field*
18 *training. Procedural justice is based on the following core*
19 *principles:*
20 (A) *Fairness and consistency of rule application.*
21 (B) *Impartiality and unbiased decisionmaker neutrality.*
22 (C) *Citizen voice in decisionmaking.*
23 (D) *Transparency and openness in process.*
24 (3) *Police training programs should include content for*
25 *mitigating the impact of bias, identifying and properly responding*
26 *to people with mental illness, and instill the principles and*
27 *practices of procedural justice.*
28 (b) *Every city police officer or deputy sheriff at a supervisory*
29 *level or below who is assigned field or investigative duties shall*
30 *complete a procedural justice training course certified by the*
31 *commission, within 18 months after the commission determines*
32 *that the training curriculum is sufficient to satisfy the requirements*
33 *of this section. This training shall be offered to all city police*
34 *officers and deputy sheriffs as part of continuing professional*
35 *training. The training shall address, at a minimum, the objectives*

1 *and core principles described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of*
2 *subdivision (a).*

3 *(c) The commission shall periodically update the procedural*
4 *justice training course required under this section, and shall*
5 *establish a retraining schedule to incorporate the updated course*
6 *content.*

7 ~~SECTION 1.—It is the intent of the Legislature to enact~~
8 ~~legislation pertaining to public safety and law enforcement.~~

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